

## FRANCO-SOVIET PACT CALLED PROPAGANDA

Embassy in Berlin Issues  
Emphatic Denial of Re-  
ported Deals.

NO CONDITIONS MADE

Entente Realizes People  
Can't Be Classed With  
Negroes, Says Radek.

GERMANS GET BUSINESS

Krupps Seeking Land in Rus-  
sia and Stinnes Buying  
Up Hotels.

By RAYMOND SWING.  
Special Cable to The New York Herald.  
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New York Herald Bureau.  
Berlin, Feb. 18.

The French Embassy here has issued an emphatic denial of the reported Franco-Russian negotiations and trade treaty. According to the French diplomatic representatives, "France's attitude concerning the Soviet remains unchanged. France never will negotiate with the Soviet independently of her allies and will make no separate agreement with Moscow. The question of the nature of her relations with the Soviet Government will be decided at the Genoa conference. The French Government has no intention of entering any negotiations whatever with the Soviet Government before the Genoa conference."

At the French Embassy it was declared that all reports about Franco-Russian negotiations and the treaty were products of Bolshevik propaganda, and that the Soviets were both trying to bring about a split in the allied Powers and to draw Germany to their side.

It is to be neither starved nor politically disturbed from without.

Russia's Great Debt.

Speaking of the Russian debt, which he says is so large that no one knows how great it is, Radek says that Russia will have no resources to use in payment thereof for some years. He calls the matter legal, rather than material and defines the question as one of credits to assist in reconstruction. That it ever will be technically possible for Russia to acknowledge such a vast obligation he doubts. He believes that notwithstanding the denial of the French Embassy, an agreement between France and Russia is inevitable as soon as Russia is in a position to assure the French of advantageous condition of trade.

Several big and successful business transactions in Russia are reported in German business circles. The Commissariat in Moscow is negotiating with the Krupps, who want to lease 50,000 acres of land.

Director Krasner of the Esplanade Hotel in Berlin, one of the group owned by Hugo Stinnes, is in Moscow to purchase, on behalf of Herr Stinnes, several houses, which will be fitted up as hotels. It is said he already has bought the Hotel de l'Europe. According to the Moscow paper, Pravda, the Soviet Government thus far has ordered a thousand locomotives from Sweden and 700 from Germany, fifty and eighty-five of which, respectively, have been delivered.

The Soviet Government has issued a violent protest against the postponement of the conference in Genoa. An official statement printed in the Pravda contains an emphatic refusal of the plan, proposed by Premier Poincaré of France, to establish in Russia a system of capitulations, after the fashion imposed upon Turkey. "This plan," the statement says, "is contrary to the resolutions adopted at the Cannes conference, and must be refused by the British Government."

German Agreement Rumored.

BERLIN, Feb. 18 (Associated Press).—Berlin newspapers take the French denial of the reported Franco-Russian agreement as a matter of course. The Borsen Zeitung says it is only a question of whether France considers the negotiations official or unofficial. There is, no doubt, it says, that some agreement has been reached, although it may not be ratified by the Russian Government "because it acknowledges French debts."

The Russian Soviet delegates who have been in Berlin for the last few days and are said to have succeeded in negotiating an economic agreement with the German Government, Leonid Krasine, Karl Radek and M. Stomankoff have left for Moscow to report to the Soviet authorities.

The Berlin Bakers Association to-day petitioned the Ministry of Food for temporary admission into Germany of foreign flour in order to reduce the high price of German flour. American flour is being offered in Berlin at 1,250 to 1,300 marks per barrel, while German flour of similar quality is selling at 1,400 marks per barrel.

RIOTING IN ASSAM  
AND JAILS OPENED

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The Assam Government in British India has informed the India Office that there was rioting Thursday night at Jumnunukh between Caliphate volunteers and Sylhet tribesmen.

The dispatch adds that prisoners who had been convicted were forcibly released from the jails and a mail train was held up and stopped. The police in the region have been reinforced.

## ITALIAN EXTREMES DEFEAT MINISTRY

Adverse Majority. Ousting  
Bonomi, Formed From Right  
and Left Parties.

ROME, Feb. 18 (Associated Press).—Premier Bonomi, in accordance with his previously announced intention, to-day handed his resignation to the King, who has again begun conferences with the political leaders in an effort to find a man who can command a Parliamentary majority and form a Cabinet. This action was the result of yesterday's adverse vote in the Chamber of Deputies.

The members of the Popular party and the Reformists alone voted in favor of confidence. Former Premier Giolitti and Orlando voted against confidence, but former Premier Nitti cast his ballot in favor of Signor Bonomi. The principal majority against the Government consisted of members of the Right and Left and the Socialists.

The Socialist Deputy Barzzone charged the Government with "shameful flight in the face of difficulties and evading responsibility." He demanded that the Government be not allowed to withdraw, but that a vote should be taken in order to show that the Ministry was alone in its policy of conciliation regarding the Vatican. Many of the Deputies expressed the opinion that the Government had gone too far in its overtures to the Vatican.

Additional support was withdrawn from the Bonomi Government because of dissatisfaction over questions of foreign policy. Many Deputies had expressed disappointment over the failure of the Italian delegates to the Washington conference to have Italy included in the four Power treaty.

All hope for the Cabinet was lost when Signor Bonomi, answering the various adverse criticisms of the Government's policy, said: "Some persons express surprise that the Ministry has returned here. But we have not returned of our own free will, nor do we intend to remain at our posts. We entertain neither hope nor fear of your vote."

The result of the roll call was received amid an uproar. Subsequent discussion showed that any new Cabinet must, like that of Signor Bonomi's, rely on the support of the Catholics and the constitutional parties unless it is possible to induce the Socialists to participate in the Government.

Commenting upon the retirement of the Ministry the Messaggero says: "Signor Bonomi makes a noble exit, without offering to make a vain, half-hearted attempt at a compromise. Our Government just now needs a man who, in addition to being honest, is strong, imperious and firm, with muscles of steel, ready for battle."

The Tempo declares the Chamber of Deputies convicted the Ministry of abuse in the employment of royal decrees, of inability to unite the diverse Parliamentary elements and of being a Government of expediency only, with no serious active policy.

COLLEGE BUILDING BURNED.

HARTFORD, Feb. 18.—Fire destroyed Alumni Hall at Trinity College here this noon. Within an hour after the blaze was discovered the building was a mass of ruins. Students saved books, records and gymnasium equipment from the first floor and basement.

The origin was undetermined. Last Sunday fire from an unknown cause did \$1,500 damage to Seabury hall.

## REDFIELD DESPAIRS FOR HUNGRY RUSSIA

Conditions Worse Than De-  
scribed by Newspapers. He  
Says at Luncheon.

Conditions in Russia are worse than reported in the newspapers, according to William C. Redfield, former Secretary of Commerce. Fifteen million persons are starving and another 15,000,000 are in dire want, he said, adding that the Soviet officially admits cannibalism in the famine area.

Mr. Redfield spoke at a luncheon at the National Republican Club yesterday, at which "Russia, the Radical Menace, the Breakdown of Socialism," was the subject. Other speakers were the Rev. Gaylord S. White of the Union Theological Seminary, Princess Cantacuzene,

granddaughter of President Grant; Philip Norton and A. R. Williams.

"Russia was never a highly organized industrial State as we understand it in America," said Mr. Redfield. "It never reached the height of organization in the industrial field."

Mr. Redfield said he learned from Herbert Hoover recently that the Soviet authorities had requested American relief authorities not to send so much food to Russia at one, and to not send more than 5,000 tons a day, as they were unable to distribute more than that on account of lack of facilities.

The speaker told of the depreciation in the Russian ruble, saying that when Charles R. Crane, formerly Minister to China, went through Russia he was told in Chita that it would take a hundred million rubles to pay his way through Russia. These he purchased for \$3,000, but when he got to Moscow he could have got them for \$1,500. One of his party bought a suit of clothes in Moscow, paying \$60,000 rubles for it. He paid 350,000 rubles for a cabman for a day, and a pair of boots cost 250,000 rubles.

Princess Cantacuzene said Bolshevism is not an idealistic movement, but is a destructive program started and financed by Germany to destroy Russian military power in the war. Continuing, she said:

"Americans are being asked by representatives of foreign Governments to treat with the Bolsheviks on a basis of equality. I am convinced that all reasons for advocating such a move are entirely selfish on the part of Europeans and not at all generous, as claimed by them. It would seem that the Bolsheviks are going to fall within a short time and that both England and Germany wish the United States to recognize Lenin. If western Europe must look foolish to the world at large and explain why it befriended a criminal group our country would then conveniently be a party to their mistake and save the situation. In other words we are called upon to pull burning chestnuts out of the fire."

RUSSIA CAN COME  
BACK, SAYS GOODRICH

Ex-Governor Speaks Here on  
Way to Europe.

"Can Russia Come Back?" was the subject of an address by former Gov. James P. Goodrich of Indiana to the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce at the weekly forum luncheon yesterday. Gov. Goodrich said Russia can.

He is on his way to investigate for the second time political and economic conditions in that country under the Soviet.

"Because we have been a friend in time of need," he said, "Russia will resume its traditional friendship for the United States. Russia will be a mighty nation again, great in population and territory as before. You cannot kill or long degrade a great people. They are fundamentally honest, conservative and law abiding. They are not free lovers and heretics, but men of family and religion."

RATHENAU TO SUBMIT  
PLANS TO GERMANS

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—Foreign Minister Rathenau will submit the plans of the reparations committee at the Genoa conference to the German Economic Council on February 23. It was announced to-day. The council will then work out the German program for the Genoa gathering.

Dr. Rathenau next Tuesday will discuss the recent German Russian trade parleys with the Foreign Relations Committee, but information on this subject for the time being is kept secret.

SINGERS AT DISCOUNT  
IN SOVIET RUSSIA

Musicians Are Starving and  
Lawyers Blacking Boots.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 18.—Artists and professional men and women of all types get scant consideration at the hands of the Russian Soviet Government, according to Miss Lillie Gorsey, soprano and former prima donna at the Odessa Opera House, who has reached this city from Russia and bribed the owner of a small boat to take the party to Constantinople, from where they made their way to Canada.

Musicians are starving, declares Miss Gorsey, and are, with professional men and women, "mobilized" and ever at the orders of the Government. They must give their services free when asked. At times they are given a bit of bread in payment for public appearances. Education and educated persons are people of small matter to the Soviet chiefs, the singer declares, and she tells of brilliant Russian lawyers now blacking boots or selling old books.

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